

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /090 W

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R 030847Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7722

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 0013

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SG

SUBJ: SENEGAL'S GOVERNING UPS ADOPTS NEW NAME BUT NOMINATES
SENGHOR FOR NEXT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

REF: 76-DAKAR A-149

1. SUMMARY: IN THREE-DAY CONGRESS DOMINATED BY PRESIDENT
SENGHOR'S POLITICAL MASTERY AND ELOQUENCE, SENEGAL'S RULING
UNION PROGRESSISTE SENEGALAISE (UPS) REDESIGNATED ITSELF THE
PARTI SOCIALISTE (PS), NOMINATED SENGHOR TO CONTEST 1978 ELECTIONS,
DISCUSSED SENEGALESE "WAY" TOWARD SOCIALISM AND RESTRUCTURED
PARTY. "SOCIALISM" AS ENVISAGED IN SENEGAL EMPHASIZES RATIONAL
PLANNING BY GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE PROSPERITY AND ALLOW PEOPLE
TIME FOR CULTURAL PURSUITS. CONGRESS ATTENDED BY 33 FOREIGN
DELEGATIONS RANGING FROM PLO AND DPRK TO MODERATE AFRICANS
AND WESTERN EUROPEANS. WHILE CONTINUING POLITICAL REFORM AND
LIBERALIZATION IN SENEGAL ARE DESIGNED TO PREPARE FOR ULTIMATE
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LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION, POLITICAL TOURS DE FORCE BY SENGHOR
IN CONGRESS AND SIMILAR EVENTS, COMBINED WITH INTERNATIONAL
ADULATION HE RECEIVES ON THOSE OCCASIONS, SERVE TO MAGNIFY
LEGEND WITH WHICH ANY SUCCESSOR WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO COMPETE.
END SUMMARY.

2. CRESCENDO OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY CLIMAXED DECEMBER 27-29

WITH EXTRAORDINARY UPS CONGRESS ATTENDED BY 1600 DELEGATES INCLUDING MOST SENIOR MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT PLUS DELEGATIONS FROM 33 OTHER COUNTRIES. MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH WAS ON HAND, AND MANY FOREIGN DELEGATIONS HAD LEADERS OF MINISTERIAL RANK.

3. CONGRESS WAS HELD TO CONSECRATE UPS' ADMISSION INTO SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, TO REAFFIRM AND DEFINE SENEGAL'S "WAY" TOWARD SOCIALISM AND TO CHANGE PARTY'S NAME TO "PARTI SOCIALISTE." CONGRESS DELEGATES PERFORMED AS EXPECTED THOUGH SOME WERE RELUCTANT TO ABANDON 18 YEARS OF TRADITION ASSOCIATED WITH UPS INITIALS. MOTIVATION FOR CHANGE OF NAME, WHICH HAS BEEN IN PLANNING FOR MONTHS, WAS TO SOLIDIFY SENEGAL'S TIES TO OTHER PARTIES IN SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AND TO STAKE OUT UNMISTAKEABLY RULING PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL IDENTITY WITHIN SENEGAL'S EVOLVING MULTIPARTY SYSTEM WHERE "SOCIALIST AND DEMOCRATIC" UPS/PS OCCUPIES CENTRIST POSITION BETWEEN "MARXIST-LENINIST" PAI ON LEFT AND "LIBERAL AND DEMOCRATIC" PDS ON RIGHT.

4. CONGRESS RESTRUCTURED INTERNAL PARTY ORGANISMS AND REDESIGNATED NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF SENEGALESE WORKERS (CNTS) AS "AFFILIATE" OF RULING PARTY, INSTEAD OF INTEGRAL PART AS IN PAST; THIS ENABLES MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES TO BE REPRESENTED BY CNTS, PRESUMABLY DISCOURAGING THEM FROM PURSUING EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH OPPOSITION LABOR CENTRALS. CONGRESS ALSO DEBATED PLANS TO ADOPT PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (REFAIR) WHICH WOULD PERMIT OPPOSITION PARTIES TO GAIN SEATS IN FEBRUARY 1978 ELECTIONS. TO NO ONE'S SURPRISE, SENGHOR WAS RE-ELECTED AS PARTY'S SECRETARY-GENERAL, AND ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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REMAINING UNCERTAINTY OVER HIS FUTURE PLANS WAS ELIMINATED BY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WOULD BE PS CANDIDATE IN 1978 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. SENGHOR PAID TRIBUTE TO NATION'S WOMEN AND YOUTH, EARNING CHEERS FOR ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BOTH WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN "NEXT GOVERNMENT."

5. SPEECHES EMPHASIZED THAT "SOCIALISM" IN LOCAL CONTEXT ABOVE ALL REFLECTS "PLANNING BASED ON RATIONALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE" TO BRING BETTER WAY TO LIFE TO SENEGALESE PEOPLE, IN ORDER TO FREE THEM FOR SPIRITUAL, ARTISTIC AND OTHER CULTURAL PURSUITS. IN ELOQUENT INAUGURAL ADDRESS SENGHOR SPOKE OUT FIRMLY ON NEED TO STAMP OUT CORRUPTION AND WASTE IN GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE MODEL OF PROSPEROUS SENEGALESE SOCIETY HE PROJECTED FOR YEAR 2000. SENGHOR CHARACTERIZED "PROBLEM OF SOCIALISM" AS BEING "LESS OF ELIMINATING INEQUALITIES BETWEEN CLASSES WITHIN ONE NATION THAN OF ELIMINATING THEM BETWEEN NATIONS."

6. SUBSTANTIAL TIME WAS DEVOTED TO PRESENTATION OF GREETINGS BY "FRATERNAL" FOREIGN PARTIES. DELEGATIONS PRESENT RANGED FROM

NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS TO WESTERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES, MOST OF WHICH WERE REPRESENTED. ONLY COMMON DENOMINATOR WAS FRIENDSHIP WITH UPS/PS. REFLECTING IMPORTANCE SENEGAL ATTACHES TO

COOPERATION WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, GAMBIA, MALI AND MAURITANIA WERE FIRST TO SPEAK. GAMBIA NJIE DECLARED THERE WAS "NOT A SINGLE AREA OF DISAGREEMENT, FRICTION OR DISCORD" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MAURITANIAN REPRESENTATIVE ASSERTED THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE SO CLOSE THAT "WHN ONE COUNTRY HAS A COLD, THE OTHER SNEEZES." BY CONTRAST, MALIAN STRESSED "WARMTH" OF BILATERAL COOPERATION IN OMVS AND OTHER AREAS. OTHER DELEGATIONS FOLLOWED SUIT, EACH BESTOWING GENERAOUS PRAISE ON SENGHOR, THE UPS AND SENEGAL, UNTIL CONGRESS HAD TO BE PROLONGED TO ACCOMMODATE ALL SPEAKERS. AFRICAN DELEGATIONS (IVORY COAST, CAMEROON, GABON, CONGO, ZAIRE, MOROCCO, TUNISIA, EGSBT, PAIGC, LIBYA, TANZANIA, ETC.) WERE FOLLOWED BY SYRIA, IRAQI, IRANN YUGOSLAVIA, CANADA, WESTERN EUROPEANS, ETC. AT OPENING CEREMONY, CONFIDENTIAL

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PLO DELEGATION RECEIVED MOST PROLONGED APPLAUSE.

7. CONGRESS COINCIDED WITH 6TH AFRICAN FEMALE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP IN DAKAR, FIRST GAME OF WHICH PITTED SENEGALESE AGAINST ALGERIAN TEAM WHICH WAS RUDELY JEERED BY SPECTATORS; SENGHOR DECLARED HIMSELF "HUMILIATED" BY FANS' PERFORMANCE AND PUBLICLY APOLOGIZED TO ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR.

8. COMMENT: PRINCIPAL IMPRESSION LEFT BY CONGRESS IS OF SENGHOR'S UNDIMINISHED MASTERY OF SENEGALESE POLITICS. CONTINUING REFORMS TO INFUSE GREATER DEMOCRACY AND PLURALISM INTO POLITICAL SYSTEM, ACCESSION OF HIS PARTY TO SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AND CURRENT CONGRESS ARE INTERRELATED ELEMENTS OF GRAND DESIGN FOR SENEGAL WHICH PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAS BEEN REVEALING SERIATIM AND NURTURING INTO REALITY AT DELIBERATE PACE IN RECENT YEARS. A MAJOR ELEMENT IN STRUCTURAL REFORMS IS SENGHOR'S DESIRE TO VITALIZE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE SECURE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH TRANSITION TO HIS SUCCESSOR CAN TAKE PLACE. HE ASSURED CONGRESS THAT HE HAD "ALWAYS WORKED SO AS NOT TO BE INDISPENSABLE," AND WOULD ENSURE THAT "CAPABLE TEAM"

WAS IN PLACE WHEN TIME CAME TO RETIRE. ONLY DISQUIETING NOTE IS THAT SENGHOR'S MAGISTERIAL POLITICAL PERFORMANCES SUCH AS THAT DURING CONGRESS, TOGETHER WITH FULSOME ADULATION WHICH CHARACTERIZES SUCH EVENTS, INCREASINGLY ELEVATE AGING PRESIDENT TO NEAR MYTHIC STATURE WHICH, HOWEVER WARRANGED, WILL MAKE HIS SHOES EVEN HARDER FOR A LESS REVERED SUCCESSOR TO FILL. AGGREY

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Message Attributes

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